

REMARKS

Further to the telephonic interview held between the Examiner, her supervisor, and Applicants' counsel on August 12, 2003, the foregoing amendment and remarks which follow are provided to place the claims of the present application in condition for allowance, as well as to address the outstanding issues raised in the Advisory Action dated July 15, 2003. In this regard, during such telephonic interview an agreement was reached regarding how the claimed invention was patentable over the prior art and how the same, as claimed, overcame the rejections maintained under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the differences between independent Claim 5, from which the remaining claims depend, and the teachings of United States Patent Number 4,341,755 were identified. With respect to the remaining claims, an agreement was made with respect to the amendment of Claims 7, 9, 10, 15 and 17 to overcome certain objections raised by the Examiner. Such agreed upon changes are believed to be reflected in the accompanying amendment.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now clearly in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested. To the extent the Examiner has any questions, requires additional information, or has any suggestions to resolve any outstanding issues that may exist, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' counsel at the number listed below.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/14/03

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